IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method for run-length encoding of a data stream, the data stream comprising bitmap formatted subtitle or menu data for video presentation on a display, wherein the subtitle or menu data include graphics or text or both, comprising the steps of

defining a preferred color;

defining a range of run-lengths;

encoding pixels of the preferred color to first code words with two or three bytes, wherein said first code words comprise a run-length value, and wherein the run-length value comprised in first code words having three bytes exceeds said defined range and may exceed the width of the display;

encoding pixels of another than the preferred color to second code words with one, three or four bytes, wherein the second code words comprise a color value, and wherein second code words having three or four bytes comprise a run-length value, and wherein the run-length value comprised in second code words having four bytes exceeds said defined range and may exceed the width of the display.

2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said color values and the preferred color are mapped with a look-up table to display colors.

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the shortest redundant code word is used for line synchronization.

4. (previously presented) Method for run-length decoding of an encoded data stream for a video presentation on a display, comprising the steps of

determining the first byte of a code word;

if said first byte has not a defined first value, decoding said first byte to a single pixel having individual color defined by the value of said first byte, the color being other than a defined first color;

if said first byte has the defined first value, determining the first and second bit of the following byte being the second byte;

if the first and second bit of the second byte have a first value, decoding the remaining bits of the second byte to a sequence of pixels of the defined first color, wherein said remaining bits of the second byte define the sequence length;

if the first and second bit of the second byte have a second value, decoding said remaining bits of the second byte together with the following third byte to a sequence of pixels of the defined first color, wherein said remaining bits of the second byte and said third byte define the sequence length, and wherein said sequence length may exceed the display width;

if the first and second bit of the second byte have a third value, decoding said remaining bits of the second byte together with the third byte to a sequence of pixels, wherein said remaining bits of the second byte define the sequence length and the third byte defines the pixels color; and

if the first and second bit of the second byte have a fourth value, decoding said remaining bits of the second byte together with the third and a following fourth byte, wherein said remaining bits of the second byte and the third byte define the sequence length and the fourth byte defines the pixel color, and wherein said sequence length may exceed the display width.

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein said defining of a pixel color from the first, third or fourth byte and from said first value comprises using a look-up table.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein the encoded data stream for a video presentation is a separate layer overlaying other video data on the display, further comprising the step of selecting a portion of said separate layer for displaying.

Claims 7-13 (cancelled)